

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the sheet metal is pre-painted galvanized sheet steel.
4. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the stiffening formations are corrugations or ribs such that a cross-sectional profile of the plinth displays a regular wave form with crests and troughs displaced from ~~[[a]]~~ the notional centre plane of the sheet.
5. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the stiffening formations are in the form of one or more ribs and adjacent pans that extend across the sheet.
6. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein at least some of the stiffening formations are disposed inboard of the opposite side edges of the plinth.

7. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the depth of the stiffening formations from ~~[[a]]~~ the centre plane of the sheet is greater than 20mm.
8. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the plinth is profiled to form a structural section to provide the stiffening formations.
9. (Cancelled)
10. (Cancelled)
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the sheet ~~material~~ metal is profiled so that the major surfaces of the plinth allow free drainage of water across those surfaces ~~when the plinth is disposed in its an in-use orientation of the plinth.~~
13. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the ratio of the height of the plinth, measured between the opposite side edges of the plinth, to the length of the plinth, ~~measured between the end edges of the plinth,~~ is in the range of 0.03 to 0.10.
14. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the sheet is bent to form the stiffening formations and wherein the radius of the curvature of the bends is at least 5mm.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Currently Amended) The fence ~~plinth~~ as claimed in claim ~~[[1]]~~ 29, wherein the end edge margins are securely located within the channels by the fit between the end edge margins and the channels of the respective posts.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Currently Amended) The fence as claimed in claim ~~[[20]]~~ 31, wherein the sheet ~~material~~ metal is profiled so that the plinth forms a partially closed section having opposite side walls interconnected by a bridging portion.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Currently Amended) The fence as claimed in claim ~~[[20]]~~ 31, wherein the sheet metal is pre-painted galvanized sheet steel.

24. (Currently Amended) The fence as claimed in claim ~~[[20]]~~ 31, wherein the ratio of the height of the plinth, measured between the opposite side edges of the plinth, to the

length of the plinth, ~~measured between the end edges of the plinth~~, is in the range of 0.03 to 0.10.

25. (Currently Amended) The fence as claimed in claim ~~[[20]]~~ 29, wherein the barrier panel comprises the lower rail and an upper rail, the upper and lower rigid rails being rigid, and an infill panel extending from ~~rail to rail~~ the upper rail to the lower rail.

26. (Withdrawn) A method of forming fence plinths comprising the steps of:
 profiling a steel strip to incorporate longitudinal extending stiffening formations in the strip; and
 shearing the strip at discrete lengths to form the plinths.

27. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the strip is profiled using a roll-forming process.

28. (Withdrawn) A method as claimed in claim 26, wherein the strip is bent to form the stiffening formations and wherein the radius of curvature of the bends are greater than 5mm.

29. (New) A fence comprising two spaced apart posts that include respective channels each with a longitudinal entry that faces toward the longitudinal entry of the channel of the other said post, a barrier panel extending between the posts and including a lower rail, and a fence plinth located below the lower rail of the barrier panel so as to be in contact with a ground surface on which the fence is constructed, the channel of each said post being defined by opposing side walls of the post and the plinth being formed from sheet metal having opposite side edges and end edge margins that

interconnect the side edges, wherein the rail and the plinth are inserted into the posts through the longitudinal entry of each of the channels, and the plinth is profiled to incorporate stiffening formations that extend along the plinth between its said end edge margins and laterally out of a notional centre plane extending between the side edges whereby the end edge margins of the plinth are retained immediately proximate the opposing side walls of the posts by the fit of the end edge margins of the plinth within the channels.

30. (New) A fence comprising two spaced apart posts that include respective channels each with a longitudinal entry that faces toward the longitudinal entry of the channel of the other said post, and a barrier panel provided by a plinth assembly received in the posts through the longitudinal entry of each of the channels, the plinth assembly consisting of a plurality of plinths formed from sheet metal, wherein the channel of each said post is defined by opposing side walls of the post, and each said plinth has opposite side edges and end edge margins that interconnect the side edges, and is profiled to incorporate stiffening formations that extend along the plinth between its said end edge margins and laterally out of a notional centre plane extending between the side edges of the plinth whereby the end edge margins of the plinth are retained immediately proximate the opposing side walls of the posts by the fit of the end edge margins within the channels, the plinths being located one above another in partial overlapping relationship, with the, or each, said overlapping region of the plinth assembly forming a region of increased stiffness in the plinth assembly that extends between the fence posts, a lower most one of the plinths contacting a ground surface on which the fence is constructed.

31. (New) A fence comprising two spaced apart posts that include respective channels each with a longitudinal entry that faces toward the longitudinal entry of the channel of the other said post, a barrier panel extending between the posts, and a plinth formed from sheet metal and which is located below the barrier panel so as to be in contact with a ground surface on which the fence is constructed, the plinth being inserted into the posts through the longitudinal entry of each of the channels and having opposite side edges and end edge margins that interconnect the side edges, wherein the channel of each said post is defined by opposing side walls of the post and the plinth is profiled to extend laterally out of a notional centre plane extending between its said side edges whereby the end edge margins of the plinth are retained immediately proximate the opposing side walls of the posts by the fit of the end edge margins of the plinth within the channels.